

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant amends claim 18. As a result, claims 1-26 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 18 being independent claims. No new matter is added.

I. Summary of Telephone Conference

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks Examiner Duverne for his courtesy in extending a telephone conference on November 2, 2005 with the below signed agent. During the teleconference, the rejection of claim 18 over U.S. Patent No. 5,176,535 (Redmond) was discussed. Agreement was reached that claim 18 would distinguish over Redmond if amended to include the language "biasing at least one of the distinct contact points by" and "between the at least one of the distinct contact points and the mating connector" as recited in initially filed claim 18. Additionally, it was agreed that the term "adapted" was to be removed from independent claim 18. Applicant hereby amends claim 18 as discussed during the interview. As a result, claim 18 is believed to be allowable. The interview is summarized throughout the comments herein.

II. Claims 22, 24, and 26 are Allowable

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's finding in the office action that claims 22, 24 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Each of claims 22, 24 and 26 depend from claim 18, which is hereby amended into allowable format, as discussed above.